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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/734,223

12/15/2003

Patrick Moller

10760.0001-00000

8649

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7590

03/24/2009

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EXAMINER

VAN, LUAN V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1795

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/24/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/734,223	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MOLLER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> LUAN V. VAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 72-99 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 72-99 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/29/2008</u>  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 2, 2009 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's amendment of March 2, 2009 does not render the application allowable. Claims 72-99 are pending.

### ***Status of Objections and Rejections***

All rejections from the previous office action are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment. New grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are necessitated by the amendments.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 80, 82-84, 97, and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 80, the claim recites cleaning by either "electrochemical etching" or "local electrochemical cell". Cleaning by an electrochemical method is not supported by the applicant's specification.

Regarding claim 82, the claim recites that the **substrate** is chosen from a group of metals such as stainless steel, platinum, etc., however, this limitation is not supported by the applicant's specification. In addition, "alloys" is not supported by the specification.

Regarding claim 83, the recitation of "a **semiconductor structure is formed on** the electrically conductive surface of the substrate" is not supported by the specification.

Regarding claim 84, the recitation of "a **conductive polymer structure is formed** on the electrically conductive surface of the substrate" is not supported by the specification.

Regarding claim 97 and 99, the recitation of plating on "multiple electrically conductive substrates" is not supported by the specification.

The limitations in these claims are deemed to be new matter, because they are not supported by the applicant's specification.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 72-78, 81, 82, 85, 93, 94 and 96-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 (US patent 6475369).

Regarding claim 72 and 98, Cohen '369 teaches a method for creating structures in an electrically conductive surface of a substrate, comprising: providing a master electrode 4 (Fig. 11), the master electrode for receiving soluble anode material (the master electrode is inherently capable of receiving a soluble material since it is electrically conductive and is structurally capable of receiving the material), the master electrode having an electrically conductive surface 8 (Fig. 1-2, 11b, column 4 lines 56-63 states that the support 8 can be an anode, and that the anode can be insoluble, see column 7 line 49) less soluble than the soluble anode material and an insulating pattern layer 6 arranged directly on the less soluble surface 8 (as seen in Fig. 11b), the insulating pattern layer 6 cooperating with the less soluble surface to define at least one cavity substantially devoid of soluble anode material (Fig. 11b); bringing the master electrode in close contact with the electrically conductive surface of the substrate (column 5 lines 4-6); and applying a quantity of soluble anode material (such as from the nickel or copper solution) onto the less soluble surface (insoluble anode surface 8) of the cavity and thereafter plating (column 13 lines 40-59) a pattern on the substrate by electrochemically transporting, through an electrolyte solution, soluble anode material (e.g., in the solution) in the cavity to the electrically conductive surface of the substrate.

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With respect to the etching step, Cohen teaches that although the electroplating methods have been described with respect to contacting a cathode with an article and plating onto a cathode, it is contemplated that the electroplating article can be placed in contact with a substrate functioning as an anode such that metal is selectively removed from the anode in a pattern corresponding to the pattern on the electroplating article. Such a process can be employed to selectively etch, engrave, and polish a substrate (column 26 lines 7-15).

With respect to the depositing step, Cohen teaches that in the embodiment of a soluble anode having an erodable layer supported by a conductive material that does not erode (column 7 lines 50-52), the erodable layer is redressed, i.e. deposited, periodically by reversing the polarity of the anode and plating back onto the anode of the negative features of the mask (column 7 lines 54-57).

Cohen differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach whether a material is deposited within the features of the mask when the insoluble anode is used.

Since Cohen teaches that a soluble material can be deposited or plated onto the anode of the negative features of the mask (column 7 lines 54-57), one having ordinary skill in the art would envision that a soluble material can be deposited onto either a soluble or insoluble anode in order to redress or deposit additional material within the features as it would involve the same process. In addition, the instant claims do not specify what the soluble or less soluble material is, therefore an anode material, even

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though it may be eroded during the electroplating process, would be less soluble than the anode material in the solution, since it is a solid before it is being consumed.

Regarding claim 73, Cohen '369 teaches wherein the first material is chemically inert in the electrolyte solution used because the first material "does not erode" (column 7 lines 49-52).

Regarding claims 74 and 75, Cohen '369 teaches further including connecting an external plating voltage in such way that the substrate becomes the cathode and the master electrode becomes the anode in local electrochemical plating cells, the plating cells being defined by the at least one cavity in the master electrode, in which cavity the anode material has been pre-deposited (Fig. 11b).

Regarding claim 76, Cohen '369 teaches that the "anode can be 'redressed' periodically by reversing the polarity of the anode and plating metal back onto the anode through the negative features of the mask" (column 7 lines 54-57).

Regarding claims 77 and 78, Cohen '369 teaches further including applying an external etching voltage in such way that the substrate becomes the anode and the master electrode becomes the cathode in the local electrochemical etching cell, the cell being defined by the cavity in the master electrode (column 26 line 7-15).

Regarding claims 81 and 82, Cohen '369 teaches that the substrate to be plated functions as the cathode (column 4 lines 50-52), and that the substrate to be plated can include a conductive surface or a nonconductive surface provided with the conductive layer. Further, the substrate to be plated can also be a previously electroplated or deposit metal or a layer that includes at least one metal (column 14 lines 53-58). Since

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copper and nickel is the electroplated on the substrate to form the three-dimensional structure in the method of Cohen '369, this teaching reads on claims 81 and 82.

Regarding claim 85, Cohen '369 teaches pulsing the plating current (column 20 lines 13-29).

Regarding claims 93 and 94, Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach the concentrations of supporting electrolyte and chemical oxidation agent (claim 93), or counter ions (claim 94). Regarding claim 93, Cohen '369 does not discuss the electroplating bath in detail, and thus do not mention a supporting electrolyte or chemical oxidation agent. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have omitted these components in a conventional electroplating bath since the metals in Cohen '369 can be plated successfully without them. Regarding claim 94, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have expected that the counter ions in the electrolyte solution of Cohen '369 are exchanged to ones which provide higher solubility, because Cohen '369 uses the same electrolytic process and solution as that of the instant invention.

Regarding claim 96, the electrolyte of Cohen '369 is an optimized electrolyte.

Regarding claims 97 and 99, Cohen '369 teaches that the substrate to be plated can include a conductive surface or a nonconductive surface provided with the conductive layer. Further, the substrate to be plated can also be a previously electroplated or deposit metal or a layer that includes at least one metal (column 14 lines 53-58). Therefore, Cohen '369 suggests that different substrates can be used. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention



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was made to have plated a pattern on multiple substrates, because it would enable the fabrication of more than one device. Further, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have emptied the cavity of a soluble anode material in the method of Cohen '369, because reduce the frequency of replenishing the soluble anode material.

Claims 83 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 in view of Tatsuura et al. (US patent 5961806).

Cohen '369 teaches the method as described above. Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach forming a semiconductor or conductive polymer structure.

Tatsuura et al. teaches: "Materials of the electrode substrate on which the electrodeposition layer is formed are not specifically limited and may be selected from various electrically conductive materials including metals and organic or inorganic **semiconductors**, or their vapor deposition films. Noble metals such as platinum and gold or carbon which are highly electrochemically stable are preferably used. The desired color filter may be easily prepared using a transparent substrate such as glass or transparent film and a transparent electrode made of ITO (indium-tin-oxide) or conductive polymer." (Column 5 lines 53-63).

Since Tatsuura et al. teach that electrodeposition can be performed on a variety of substrate materials including a semiconductor and a conductive polymer, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to have formed the semiconductor structure or polymer structure of Tatsuura et al. in the method of Cohen, because such structures can be used to build devices having the desired electrical or mechanical properties.

Claims 79 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 in view of Burnham (US patent 3190822).

Cohen '369 teaches the method as described above. Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach cleaning and etching the electrode.

Burnham teaches a method of electrolytically etching surfaces of in the valve metal electrodes in order to increase their surface areas so as to make it possible to use relatively small electrodes (column 1 lines 14-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by etching the electrode as taught by Burnham, because it would increase the surface area of the electrodes, and because it would remove contaminants from the surfaces of the electrode.

Claims 86-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 in view of Tang et al. (US patent 6036833).

Cohen '369 teaches the method as described above. Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach the specific frequency of the instant claim or periodic pulse reverse.

Tang et al. teach an electroplating method using periodic pulse reverse and a frequency from 100 to 10,000 Hz (column 2 lines 8-9).

Addressing claims 86 and 87, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by using the frequency of Tang et al., because it would produce a more fine-grained and hard plating metal (column 1 lines 33-37 of Tang et al.).

Addressing claims 88 and 89, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by using the periodic pulse reverse of Tang et al., because it would reduce the internal stress of the electrodeposit (column 2 lines 55-60 of Tang et al.).

Claims 90, 91 and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 in view of Scott (US patent 5196109).

Cohen '369 teaches the method as described above. Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach a sequestering agent or the pH of the instant claim.

Scott teaches an electroplating method and composition using EDTA (column 6 lines 41-61) and a pH of 1.5 to 5.5 (column 6 lines 8-11).

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Addressing claims 90 and 91, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by using the sequestering agent of Scott, because it would prolong the useful operating life of the electrolyte necessitating less frequent treatments with precipitating agents or peroxide treatments to remove such harmful metal ions and organic contaminants when their concentrations increase to objectionable levels (column 6 lines 48-54 of Scott).

Addressing claim 93, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by using the pH range of Scott, because it would increase the conductivity of the electrolyte solution and hence reduce the power consumption required for electrodeposition (column 5 lines 63-65 of Scott).

Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen '369 in view of Bernards et al. (US patent 4932518).

Cohen '369 teaches the method as described above. Cohen '369 differs from the instant claims in that the reference does not explicitly teach the additive system of the instant claim.

Bernards et al. teach a composition for electroplating copper onto a conductive surface comprising a solution having brighteners (i.e., accelerators), suppressors, wetting agents, and levelers (column 4 lines 29-55).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Cohen '369 by using additive system of Bernards et al., because it would improve the efficiency of the plating reaction and the quality of the metal deposit (column 1 lines 23-31 of Bernards et al.).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicants' arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUAN V. VAN whose telephone number is (571)272-8521. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Nam X Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1753

LVV  
March 17, 2009